

Applicants: David M. Stern, et al.
Serial No.: 09/374,213
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In the specification:

On page 1, line 5, please insert the following paragraph:

a'
This application claims priority of U.S. Serial No. 08/592,070, filed January 26, 1996 and of U.S. Serial No. 08/948,131, filed October 9, 1997 under 35 U.S.C. §120, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference into the present application.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 27, 28 and 29 and introduce new claims 41-58 as follows:

a¹
~~41.~~ (New) A method of inhibiting of the binding of a β -sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of a cell of a subject, wherein the cell is located outside the central nervous system of the subject, which comprises contacting the cell with a compound that inhibits binding of the β -sheet fibril to RAGE.

a²
42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the β -sheet fibril is amyloid fibril.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the β -sheet fibril is a prion- derived fibril.

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²
~~44.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~41~~¹, wherein the β -sheet fibril is selected from the group consisting of amyloid- β peptide, amylin, amyloid A, prion-derived peptide, transthyretin, cystatin C, gelsolin and a peptide capable of forming amyloid.

45. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the β -sheet fibril is an amyloid- β peptide is selected from the group consisting of A β (1-38), A β (1-40), A β (1-42) and A β (1-40) Dutch variant.

³
~~46.~~ (new) The method of claim ~~41~~¹, wherein the compound is sRAGE or a fragment thereof.

47. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound is an anti-RAGE antibody or portion thereof.

^{a2}
^{Cont.}
48. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

49. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a human, a humanized, or a chimeric antibody.

50. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound comprises a Fab fragment of an anti-RAGE antibody.

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- 51.(new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound comprises the variable domain of an anti-RAGE antibody.
- 52.(new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound comprises one or more CDR portions of an anti-RAGE antibody.
- 53.(new) The method of claim 41, wherein the antibody is an IgG antibody.
- 54.(new) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound comprises a peptide, peptidomimetic, a nucleic acid, or an organic compound with a molecular weight less than 500 daltons.

C1 ~~55.~~ (Amended) The method of claim ~~41~~, wherein the cell is a mononuclear phagocyte.--

~~5~~ 56.(new) The method of claim ~~41~~, wherein the compound is a peptide analog of sRAGE.

~~6~~ 57.(new) A method of inhibiting of the binding of a β -sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of a cell of a subject, wherein the cell is located outside the central nervous system of the subject, which comprises administering to the subject

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an amount of soluble RAGE (sRAGE) effective to inhibit binding of the β -sheet fibril to RAGE.

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58. (new)

A method of inhibiting of the binding of a β -sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of a cell of a subject, wherein the cell is located outside the central nervous system of the subject, which comprises administering to the subject an amount of a peptide fragment of sRAGE identical to the V-domain of sRAGE effective to inhibit binding of the β -sheet fibril to RAGE.

a2
cont